



THE OLIVE BRANCH

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE DIOCESE OF CYPRUS
AND THE GULF - FEBRUARY 2026

***For all that has been, thanks;
for all that shall be, yes.***

Over these past few weeks, the Diocese has been marking its Golden Jubilee Anniversary. Two special services were held in London: a Eucharist at All Hallows by the Tower on Saturday 24th January and a Choral Mattins at St Clement Danes, the Central Church of the Royal Air Force, on the Strand the following day, Sunday 25th January. Each service was distinctive in character and drew different congregations to come and celebrate fifty remarkable years.

These services were followed eight days later by the opening Eucharist of the Synod in St Christopher's Cathedral Bahrain, another wonderful 50th Anniversary celebration.

The Synod itself was a very positive event held in the Gulf Hotel. The team at St Christopher's



Cathedral, under the leadership of David Axtell and in liaison with Dr Helen Perry and the Diocesan team provided a wonderfully

varied programme, which included a Gala Dinner hosted by *This is Bahrain* (an interfaith initiative in the Kingdom), the Chrism Eucharist at Awali Church followed by dinner in the BAPCO Club, and an interfaith service at sea in several dhows. The keynote speaker was Martha Jarvis, the Anglican Communion's Permanent representative to the United Nations, who gave three challenging addresses inspired by the theme of Jubilee. Details and photos of a purposeful and positive synod can be found on the Diocesan website: cypgulf.org

Friends Invited to the Palace

With the recent visit to Cyprus of the Bishop of Exeter, Bishop Mike and his wife Rachel, came the gracious invitation to the Friends to meet



in the Bishop's Palace in Exeter for this year's South-West Gathering on Tuesday 24th March in the Bishop's Palace. This will enable the Friends to help build on the Link relationship between the two Dioceses in creative ways. The day is likely to

have a similar pattern of Eucharist, plenty of time to catch up with one another, lunch, and an activity in the afternoon. Ian Calder, who is liaising on behalf of the Friends, has asked for responses by Sunday February 8th, so if you have not yet responded, don't worry, but please do so as soon as possible by dropping Ian an email: canonian@virginmedia.com

New Appointments



The community of St Paul's Nicosia and wider Diocese was delighted to hear the news of the appointment of the Rev'd Canon Dr Walter Brownridge as the new

Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, Nicosia. Walter and his wife Tina know the Cathedral community, having served as a locum priest last year. He comes to St Paul's with a breadth of pastoral and academic experience, having served in the Diocese of Vermont both in parish ministry, as a Cathedral Dean, and as Associate Dean at the School of Theology of Sewanee, University of the South, Tennessee.

It was a joy to hear the appointment of the Rev'd Navina Thompson to St Helena's, Larnaca. No stranger to the Diocese Navina is returning from London, where she has been serving as



associate rector at St Mary Norwood Green and as a bank hospital chaplain at London Northwest University Trust. She has previously served in Cyprus as assistant priest in the parish of Ammochostos and student chaplain for St Mark Famagusta.

She and her husband, the Rev'd Canon Andy Thompson, also served for many years in St Paul's Kuwait and St Andrew's Abu Dhabi, where he was parish priest.

Placement in the Diocese

The Diocese has a history of welcoming ordinands and curates from other Dioceses for placements in parishes in Cyprus and the Gulf. The latest is Helen Ryan, an ordinand at Sarum College, Salisbury, who will be sharing in the life of two parishes in Holy Week and Easter



Week: St Barnabas' Limassol and St Helena's Larnaca. Helen was brought up and now resides in Jersey in the Channel Islands, which is part of the Diocese of Salisbury. She is

an artist and photographer and teaches art and is Head of Photography at Victoria College in Jersey. As Helen said: *'I am grateful to come and gain some experience working alongside you and I will aim to just 'fit in' at what is a very busy time of the year.'*

Dates for your Diary

South-West Gathering of Friends in Bishop's Palace, Exeter: *Tuesday 24th March 2026*

The **AGM of the Friends** preceded by a Eucharist is set for *Monday 27th July 2026*, in All Hallows by the Tower, London.

Northern Gathering of Friends in York: *Wednesday 21st October 2026*

Zoom Prayer meetings for the Diocese:

Thursday 5th March 2.00pm

Thursday 21st May 2.00pm

Thursday 24th September 2.00pm

Farewell Deborah

The Rev'd Deborah Moorgas' first experience of the Diocese was as a locum priest in St Christopher's Cathedral Bahrain, when she



was continuing to work in marine insurance. The experience of pastoral ministry in the Diocese encouraged her to apply for the vacancy

at St Barnabas' Limassol. She has reflected a deep humanity in her ministry and a willingness to speak out, when impelled to do so. She has seen St Barnabas' flourish under her leadership and contributed to the life of the Diocese, especially through co-ordinating the Retreats Ministry. We thank her for all she has given and wish her well as she returns to South Africa after Easter.

Rest in Peace

We were saddened to receive the news of the death of the second Bishop of the Diocese, Bishop Harry Moore, on 16th December 2025. Bishop Harry died at the grand age of 102. His funeral took place in Middleton, Manchester on 30th December 2025

In the Church Times, Canon Mark Oxbrow, who served with him in CMS, wrote: *"He will be remembered by many as a man of practical Christian faith and service, a down-to-earth northerner with a great store of spiritual wisdom."*

Bishop Harry's family have given his pectoral cross and his vestments to the Diocese.

We also heard the sad news of the death of Irene Jeynes, wife of the Rev'd Tony Jeynes. Tony was Chaplain in Kyrenia from 2004-2007, before he and Irene moved to Paphos.

Irene and Tony had spent time in Cyprus recently; her funeral took place, on Thursday January 22nd at 11:30am at Holy Trinity Church Southport.

Now Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised. (Luke 2: 29)